

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 5, 2018

Lt. Col. Kathryn P. Sanborn, PhD, PE, PMP  
District Engineer  
Department of the Army  
Honolulu District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440

Dear Lt. Col. Sanborn:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2018, informing me of the pending deauthorization on October 1, 2018 of "\$20,000,000 for water related infrastructure, Saipan," originally included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, P.L. 110-114. The letter was delivered to the Marianas congressional office in Washington on August 15, 2018 and does not meet the statutory requirements for notification of Congress.

Your letter states that on December 16, 2016 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works transmitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a deauthorization list, which included the above noted Saipan project, pursuant to the requirements of Section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended (33 U.S.C. 579a(b)(2)).

While §579a(b)(2) requires the Secretary of the Army to submit an annual deauthorization list to Congress, it also requires that:

Upon submission of such list to Congress, the Secretary shall notify each Senator in whose State, and each Member of the House of Representatives in whose district, a project (including any part thereof) on such list would be located. *Emphasis added.*

Your notification to me, as the Member of the House of Representatives in whose district the Saipan project is located, was not provided until July 23, 2018, twenty months after the deauthorization list was submitted on December 16, 2016. I do not consider this action to be in compliance with the statutorily required notification.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, I hereby request that the "\$20,000,000 for water related infrastructure, Saipan" that was included in WRDA 2007 be removed from any pending deauthorization

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<sup>1</sup> For the record, an informal notice was provided to the Congressional Office by Honolulu District staff on July 20, 2018.

list and that deauthorization only be included in any future list after proper, timely notification to the appropriate Member of Congress, as required by law.

Furthermore, I would note that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Needs Survey and Assessment, Sixth Report to Congress, of March 2018 finds a twenty-year need for \$198.4 million of water infrastructure in the Northern Marianas. Although this is a significant reduction from the \$366 million reported by EPA in 2007, when the Water Resources Development Act authorized \$20 million for the island of Saipan in the Marianas, the need remains. As EPA states:

The Assessments have consistently demonstrated that water systems in the territories face unique challenges in providing safe drinking water to their customers. As made clear in their survey submissions and supporting documentation, while drinking water issues can vary from island to island, the overall challenges for all the U.S. territories include rapidly deteriorating infrastructure, a seasonal transient customer base, limited source water options, and ground water contamination.

For that reason, I will continue to work for an appropriation of the funds first authorized in 2007 and, again, believe that the requirements for deauthorization have not been met.

I look forward to your prompt reply and action.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Mike Pence, President of the Senate  
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable Bill Schuster, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
The Honorable John Barasso, Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works  
The Honorable Thomas A. Carper, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works